

Lunesdale Rural District Council

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1949

Lunesdale Rural District Council

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1949

Lunesdale Rural District Council

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Lunesdale Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1949, on the
Health and Sanitary conditions in your District.

This Report includes that of your Sanitary Inspector and his
Staff, so far as their activities relate to Health and Sanitary matters.

The destruction of records by the fire in January 1946, is
still causing serious inconvenience to the Staff.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. A. TOMB,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health:

J. A. TOMB, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

A. WARBURTON, Certif. R.S.I., M.I.S.A.

1. General Statistics of the Area:

AREA of the District (Acres)	76.099
POPULATION (Census 1931)	6,575
POPULATION (Registrar General's Estimate, 1949)	7,430
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1931)	1,633
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1949)	2,070
RATEABLE VALUE	£44,643
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE	£179 : 6 : 5

The chief industries of the inhabitants of the District are:—

Agriculture.

Manufacture of Textiles (Cotton and Artificial Silk).

Brick Manufacture.

There is no unemployment in the District.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total	Male	Female
Live Births (Legitimate)	114	55	59
(Illegitimate)	10	2	8
TOTAL	124	57	67

Birth-Rate per thousand estimated
population, mid-1949 16.7

Still Births 2 1 1

Birth-Rate per 1,000 estimated
(live and still) 16

Deaths 63 40 23

Death-rate per 1,000 { Crude: 8.5
estimated population { Adjusted: 7.9

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—

Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis Nil

Other Maternal causes Nil

TOTAL Maternity mortality Nil

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births 40

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births 44

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 9

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 2

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1949.

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Cancer	3	6	9
Cerebral Haemorrhage	2	4	6
Heart Disease	16	4	20
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	—	1
Gastric Ulcer	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	—	2	2
Diarrhoea, under 2 years	2	—	2
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Bronchitis	1	1	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	1	4
Congenital Malformations	1	1	2
Suicide	2	—	2
Other Violent Causes	1	—	1
All Other Causes	4	1	5

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Per 1,000 of estimated population.				Maternal mortality rate.		Rate of deaths under one year per 1,000 live births
	Live birth-rate	Crude death-rate	Death-rate from tuberculosis of respiratory system	Death-rate from cancer	Per 1,000 live births	Per 1,000 total (live and still) births	
1944-48	17.3	12.2	0.18	1.26	1.74	1.68	24
1948	18.6	12.4	Nil	1.18	Nil	Nil	23
1949	16.7	8.5	Nil	1.21	Nil	Nil	40
Increase or Decrease in 1949 on 5 yrs. average:—							
1944-48	—0.6	—3.7	—0.18	—0.05	—1.74	—1.68	+16
Prev. Year	—1.9	—3.9	Nil	+0.03	Nil	Nil	+17

TUBERCULOSIS.

Two cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year:—
Both were Pulmonary, one being male and the other female.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Other Forms		Respiratory		Other Forms	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING 1949.

Diseases	Under	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	Total
	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	& Over	
Scarlet Fever	—	1	2	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Measles	1	2	—	5	—	10	1	1	—	—	—	—	20
Whooping Cough	1	13	—	7	—	13	3	—	—	—	—	1	38
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fev.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Acute Polio- encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Encephalitis- Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia- Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED—74.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Under the present system, children can be immunised either by their own family doctor or at clinics conducted by the Divisional Medical Officer of the local Health Division, and his staff.

Records of immunisation are completed by the General Practitioner in respect of children whom he has immunised; and forwarded to the Divisional Health Office.

Records of immunisation carried out at clinics are completed by the Divisional Medical Officer's staff.

The following table shows the number of children immunised in Lunesdale Rural District up to December 31st, 1949.

I should point out that up to July, 1948, many parents had their children immunised by their own private Practitioner, and of this number, we have no accurate records.

Immunisation in relation to Child Population.

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1949.

Age at 31st DEC. 1949 i.e. born in Year	under 1 1949	1 1948	2 1947	3 1946	4 1945	5-9 1940-44	10-14 1935-39	Total under 15
Number Immunised	28	41	68	57	42	278	356	870
Estimated Mid-Year Child Population 1949.	Children under 5 years. 614		Children 5-14 years 997			Children under 15 years 1,611		
Percentage of Child population in age groups in an immunised state	38.44%		63.59%			54.00%		

WATER SUPPLY.

Taken as a whole, the District is reasonably well served from the Council's mains, and apart from the high-lying farms, a good supply is offered to most properties.

The chief sources of supply are obtained from the Manchester Corporation's Thirlmere Aqueduct, which passes through the District, four main connections and one subsidiary being taken off the Aqueduct at points to serve the various schemes in the following Parishes, viz.:—

- (1) Arkholme, Whittington, Gressingham, Melling, Cantsfield, Tunstall, Burrow, Leck, Ireby, Wennington, and Tatham, being on a Regional Scheme.
- (2) Borwick—a separate scheme which later passes into the Lancaster Rural District to serve a portion of that Area.
- (3) Nether Kellet and Over Kellet.
- (4) Halton.

The subsidiary connection serves a part of the Parish of Caton in times of emergency.

The Council have two schemes under their own direct management, one of these being for the Parishes of Hornby and Wray, which is known as the Hornby Castle Supply; and the other serves a part of the Parish of Caton.

The Hornby Castle Supply, formerly a private scheme, was taken over in 1939, when the Castle Estate was sold. The water is from an intake on the River Roeburn, passes through settling tanks and filters, and is chlorinated prior to storage. The Carbon Filter, installed in mid-1948 for the purpose of De-chlorinating the water as it leaves the works, appears to be still working efficiently.

A portion of the Parish of Quernmore is served from the Lancaster City Mains, this water being taken untreated; whilst treated water from the City Supply also serves a small part of the Parish of Halton.

An extension of the mains on the Regional Scheme, to serve part of the villages of Gressingham, and Aughton, was finally completed during the year. This entailed the laying of some 5,700 yards of 3in. and 2in. Asbestos Cement Mains.

In the table set out below is given an estimate of the supplies to property in the individual Parishes, together with the population so served.

Water Supplies to Houses in the District:—

Parish.	From Public Mains.		Private Supplies.	
	Direct to Houses.	Population Served.	No. of Houses.	Population Served.
Arkholme	47	144	26	91
Borwick	33	117	15	56
Burrow	39	137	13	42
Cantsfield	8	27	14	52
Caton	388	1296	45	137
Cloughton	Nil	Nil	42	145
Gressingham	36	147	17	56
Halton	312	1141	10	35
Hornby	103	328	13	47
Ireby	16	59	5	18
Nether Kellet	75	218	Nil	Nil
Over Kellet	67	203	45	143
Leck	35	107	19	62
Melling	54	177	6	24
Quernmore	52	179	117	467
Roeburndale	Nil	Nil	19	68
Tatham	41	134	71	377
Tunstall	25	83	3	13
Wennington	35	122	Nil	Nil
Whittington	67	237	23	63
Wray	109	362	25	316
Total Whole District	1542	5218	528	2212

The Agricultural Committee's Grant Scheme for the provision of piped supplies to farm premises in the Area, has again been taken advantage of by a number of owners, but still more use should be made of this scheme, where practicable.

Advantage has again been taken of the Public Health Laboratory Service for the Bacteriological Examination of water supplies, during the year. The results of analyses of samples submitted, are grouped below:—

Number of samples of raw water submitted	26
Number found to be Satisfactory	22
Number found to be Unsatisfactory	4
Number of samples of treated water submitted	29
Number found to be Satisfactory	25
Number found to be Unsatisfactory	4

SEWERAGE.

There are no modern or up-to-date sewerage treatment works in any part of the Area, sewerage being disposed of by means of small tanks in the various villages, and one cannot conscientiously say that these tanks are efficient or adequate in any degree.

A summary of the conditions in various parts of the District is set out below:—

Arkholme.—No treatment or sewers provided, the houses where water closets are provided, have septic tanks installed. Sink waste drainage is dealt with in some instances by the surface water drains.

Borwick.—No treatment or sewers provided here, but several properties are connected to private septic tanks.

Burrow.—Similar conditions as mentioned above.

Cantsfield.—The properties provided with water closets have their own septic tanks.

Caton.—The majority of the property is connected to the old sewage systems. These consist of tanks—three near Artlebeck in the fields, each dealing with a part of the village; and one near the Low Mill, taking sewage from the western portion of the village. All these tanks are seriously overloaded, and totally inadequate for present day use.

Brookhouse.—Is sewered, and the sewage is treated in a small tank, and carried forward for final treatment by land irrigation. The works are inadequate and seriously overloaded.

Claughton.—No sewers provided. Most premises use privy middens, and those properties provided with water closets have septic tanks.

Gressingham.—No sewers provided. Most houses are drained to the stream, either through tanks, or direct.

Halton.—Most of the village is sewered, but no treatment of sewage takes place before discharge direct into the river, causing pollution at two points which have been the source of complaint.

Hornby.—Sewers and tanks are provided, there being three of the latter in use. These are overloaded, and the effluent discharged into the river is unsatisfactory.

Farleton.—Again no sewers or treatment provided. One or two premises are provided with tanks.

Ireby.—No sewers provided, and sink waste drainage from most of the properties is discharged into the stream.

Nether Kellet.—No treatment is provided, but a number of houses are connected direct to a surface water sewer passing through the village. This discharges into a stream on the out-skirts of the village, and numerous complaints from tenants and owners have again been received during the year, as to the pollution caused.

Over Kellet.—Similar conditions prevail as mentioned for Nether Kellet, sewerage and sink waste drainage being discharged into two streams in the village.

Leck and Cowan Bridge.—No sewers or treatment works provided, houses with w.c.'s are connected to tanks.

Melling.—Again no sewers; nearly all properties have w.c.'s and tanks are installed.

Wrayton.—Conditions are similar to those at Melling.

Quernmore.—The scattered nature of this Parish does not lend itself to the provision of a sewage scheme, apart from the group of properties near the Temperance Hotel, and the new estate at Bulk. The houses on this estate are connected to septic tanks and these are in good working order.

Roeburndale.—Another scattered Parish, chiefly consisting of farm properties where a sewage scheme could not be very well provided.

Tatham.—This is also a wide Parish, but several premises are served by private septic tanks. A small sewage scheme is in operation in the village of Lowgill, but the amount of material to be dealt with is small and the works, at the moment, appear to be adequate.

Tunstall.—No sewers or sewage disposal plant available, properties with water closets are served by small tanks.

Wennington.—No proper sewers or sewage disposal works provided, several houses connected to tanks.

Whittington.—Property in one portion of the village is connected to an old surface drain which passes through two tanks at the northern end of the village. These are merely cesspools and are inadequate for present day use. The rest of the property where water closets are installed are served by tanks.

Wray.—Sewers are provided and sewage is treated in tanks at either end of the village. These tanks are too small for the amount of sewage passing through them, and the effluent is the source of complaints from local residents and the Rivers Board.

Approval is still awaited for the various sewage schemes which were submitted to the Ministry of Health some considerable time ago. In my opinion, all of the schemes should be put in hand as early as possible, as there is no doubt their provision is urgently required throughout the Area.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

No. of Middens:—	831	No. of Closets attached:—	970
No. of Pail Closets:—	49	No. of Ashbins:—	2,249
No. of Houses on Water		No. of Fresh Water	
Carriage System:—	1,167	Closets:—	1,381

Conversions during 1949:—

No. of privy closets to water closets:—	43
No. of fixed receptacles to moveable ashbins:—	35

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection of House refuse is carried out in almost the whole of the District, by the Council's workmen, and an additional vehicle was brought into use in May, 1949. The Council now has two vehicles engaged on this work, and by the re-organisation of the collection services, it has been found possible to introduce a fortnightly collection over the major portion of the District—a service which will be of benefit to nearly all the householders in the Area.

HOUSING.

The Council have in hand an extensive house building programme, and new houses have, and are being constructed in almost every Parish in the District.

Seven houses were completed by private individuals, and fifty-six by the Council during the year under review, but difficulty was experienced in obtaining the labour and materials necessary to push on with this work.

The general housing conditions in the District are fairly satisfactory, but it will be appreciated that some of the older property is not of a good standard, whilst there is a tendency to overcrowding in a few cases. Statistics regarding the latter are still not by any means complete, as the destruction of the Council Offices, together with all records, in the early part of 1946, is still causing inconvenience. Three houses, however, were found to be overcrowded within the meaning of the Act, and these concerned five families, or 16 people.

One house was the subject of a Demolition Order during the year, whilst some 8 houses were dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936; undertakings being accepted by the Council from the owners, in respect of all these latter houses.

The new legislation introduced during the year, viz.:—The Housing Act, 1949, can be usefully taken advantage of by owners of property in the District. The payment of Grants for the structural and sanitary improvements to premises should be used to the fullest extent, and every encouragement given by the Council to owners who wish to implement the Act to bring their properties to a more modern standard.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

No. of premises inspected during the year	68
No. of visits made for the purpose	188
No. inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations	68
No. of inspections made for the purpose	152
No. of premises found not in all respects reasonably fit	51
No. of premises rendered fit by informal action	41

The comments made on the carrying out of the Housing Survey in my Report for last year are still applicable, this work cannot be done with the staff at present in the Council's employ.

INSPECTION OF SHOPS.

All shops are inspected at least twice a year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, and the Public Health Act, 1936, and no action has been necessary under these Acts.

MEAT INSPECTION.

There are no private slaughter houses as such in the Area. Slaughtering has been centralised under the Ministry of Food, at the Lancaster Corporation Abattoirs, and inspection is carried out by the Staff employed there.

All Food shops and premises where food is prepared are regularly visited, and the co-operation of shopkeepers in notifying suspected foodstuffs is appreciated.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

With the coming into operation in October, 1949, of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944; the responsibility for the supervision of milk production passed from Local Council's to the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries; and Local Authorities were left with the supervision of dairies other than dairy farms. This has the effect of allowing Council's to concentrate upon the conditions affecting milk consumed in their Area.

Prior to the Ministry taking over these duties, 201 visits were made to farm premises in the District, and works of improvement on a number of these farms were either in progress or contemplated, to bring the premises up to the standard required for the production of Designated Milk. At the end of September, some 39 farms were licensed for the production of T.T. Milk, and 15 to produce Accredited Milk.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

Specimens for Bacteriological Examination and Report, are sent to the Pathological Department at the Lancaster Royal Infirmary.

Other bacteriological specimens are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, and the Royal Infirmary, Preston.

Ambulance Facilities.

The ambulance services for the Area, are controlled by the Lancashire County Council, through the Divisional Health Office at 4/5, Dalton Square, Lancaster. The telephone number of the Ambulance Station is Lancaster 561.

Nursing Services.

The District Nursing and Midwifery Services for the District are provided by the Lancashire County Council, through the Divisional Health Office, at Lancaster.

FACTORY ACT, 1937.

Visits have been made on 98 occasions to premises during the year. Six Notices have been issued during the year, one with regard to inadequate ventilation, four with regard to sanitary accommodation, and one relating to a tendency for fire risk.



